

REMARKS

The Examiner's reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendment above and comments which follow.

First, turning to the objection to Claim 1, the Examiner is quite correct and Claim 1 has been amended appropriately. The error is regretted.

Claim Rejections 35 USC 103

Applicants have reviewed newly cited US 5,944,824 (HE), and do not agree with the examiner's assessment of the relevance of this document to independent claims 1 and 7. Although there is a degree of superficial similarity between the arrangement shown in Figure 1 of HE and Figure 1 of the present application, a detailed analysis of the operation of the networks, clients and servers as claimed can demonstrate that there are significant differences between the invention as claimed and the teaching of HE.

Claim 1

The main areas of difference lie in steps b to d.

The examiner considers that the Security Server (SS) 15 of HE (equated to the first server computer as claimed) has permission to access the Network Element (NE) 20 of HE (equated to the further networks as claimed). However, in HE the SS 15 does not "access" the NE 20, rather it "accesses" the Secure Terminal Server (STS) 24. In the passages of column 4 of HE cited by the examiner, HE states that "the secure terminal server 24... acts as the interfaces between the NEs 20 and the Internet Protocol network". That is, HE does not state that the SS 15 accesses the NE 20.

The examiner considers the "further network" to be the network *between* the STS 15 and the NE 20, which is clearly not "accessed" during a communication between the SS 15 and the STS 24. In fact, the whole point of the HE invention is that the SS 15 can automatically authenticate a user to an NE 20

without the user having to log in again - a feature which is accomplished by allowing the SS 15 to interface with the STS 24.

Also, Applicants do not consider that the SS 15 of HE actually "accesses" the further network within a proper interpretation of the word "access" in this claim, with reference to the later claim limitations in c - d. Although the SS 15 can facilitate the automatic logging in of a user on the NE 20 by using the STS 24 as an interface, at no point does a user access the NE 20 via the SS 15. In particular a user does not require and further does not use the SS 15 in accessing the NE 20 once the STS 24 has confirmed to the SS 15 that the user is authorized for the NE 20. This point is further relevant to step c, where the claim states that the logging on of the user to the further server computer occurs *through* the first server computer.

In relation to d, the passage of HE cited by the examiner does not make any reference to running a remote desktop session on the further server computer. HE simply states that the user may gain access to resources and information in the NE.

Therefore, the addition of a firewall for each network would not lead to the invention as claimed. Furthermore, to add any firewalls to HE would be to go directly against the teaching of HE, e.g. at column 4, lines 18-20 where it is stated that "the security server 15 performs all the network security functions" (emphasis added).

Claim 7

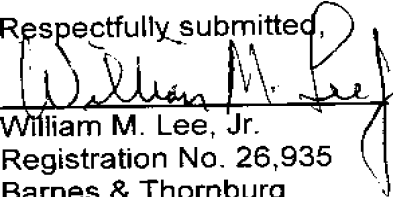
Step d of the method requires the further server computer to receive user input from and return display updates to the client computer *via the first server*. This is not a feature of HE - the first server is not involved in the transfer of information, other than relating to the log in. The passage at column 14 line 59 - 63 of HE clearly state that the "ticket" relating to the log in is invisible to the user.

It is therefore submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 7 are each allowable over the cited prior art. Dependent claims 2 - 6 are submitted to be allowable also at least by virtue of dependency from allowable main claims.

Therefore, favorable reconsideration of the application is urged. As this response is being submitted during the sixth month following the Examiner's Office Action, an appropriate Petition for Extension of Time is also submitted herewith.

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Respectfully submitted,



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